

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/293,142

Applicant(s)

KONDOH ET AL.

Examiner

Aravind K Moorthy

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7 March 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10,15,17 and 18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 June 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the amendment filed on 7 March 2005.
2. Claims 10, 15, 17 and 18 are pending in the application.
3. Claims 10, 15, 17 and 18 have been allowed.
4. Claims 1-9, 11-14, 16 and 19-27 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 10, 15, 17 and 18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. As to independent claim 10, prior art teaches a filing management unit for filing and managing the image data input thereto through an image input unit, as taught by Squilla et al U.S. Patent No. 5,898,779. Prior art teaches an alteration detection unit for decrypting first alteration detection data attached to the image data by use of a decryption key corresponding to a first encryption key used for generating the alteration detection data, as taught by Squilla et al U.S. Patent No. 5,898,779. Prior art teaches comparing the first alteration detection data thus decrypted with the image data thereby to detect the alteration of the image data, as taught by Squilla et al U.S. Patent No. 5,898,779. Prior art teaches an image editing unit for processing the image data and an image file updating unit for generating second alteration detection data, as taught by Squilla et al U.S. Patent No. 5,898,779.

However, prior art does not teach or fairly discloses using a second encryption key other than the first encryption key from the image data processed by the image editing unit and editing history data output by the image editing unit, and for adding the second alteration detection data to the edited image data. Prior art does not teach or fairly discloses means for adding and storing

Art Unit: 2131

editor authentication data read from a detachable IC card. Prior art does not teach or fairly discloses that the image file updating unit is removably mounted on the digital image editing system and has stored therein the editor authentication data and the second encryption key. Prior art does not teach or fairly discloses that the second alteration detection data is generated using the second encryption key and the editor authentication data.

The dependant claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the specification are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2131

Conclusion


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aravind K Moorthy whose telephone number is 571-272-3793. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Aravind K Moorthy
March 14, 2005




AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100